

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20423
Finance Docket No. 34797

April 19, 2006

Regarding:

STB Finance Docket 34797, New England Transrail, LLC d/b/a Wilmington and Woburn Terminal Railway-Construction, Acquisition and Operation Exemption-In Wilmington and Woburn, MA.

Dear Ms. Johnson-Ball:

We are writing to express our opposition to this immense threat to our community. We have enough traffic and environmental problems as it is and don't need a massive trash transfer station adding to our woes. For in addition to Wilmington, the Transrail operation will affect all of North Woburn's neighborhoods and residents, too.

Consider:

-The project will severely impact heavily populated areas in both Wilmington and Woburn. There are dense residential neighborhoods at both ends of Eames Street, and along the entire length of Route 38 in Woburn.

-The Olin Chemical site has not been remediated and the extent of contamination is not fully understood. The site should remain undeveloped until its contamination issues are thoroughly resolved.

-400 trucks a day will present a terrible hazard on our streets since we are unprepared for any spills and the new onramp built for Route 93 is too narrow for safely transporting materials in trucks.

-2 elementary schools, a daycare center and large senior housing complex are located in North Woburn on or near Route 38. Add heavy commuter traffic to the mix. The proposed excessive truck activity spells disaster for already overburdened roads.

-Noise generated by the immense grinding operation will be an unbearable nuisance to the nearby densely populated areas of North Woburn and South Wilmington.

-Odor and pests from the municipal solid waste, which will be handled at the site, will adversely affect nearby homes.

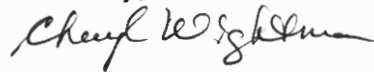
Cheryl grew up on Merrimac Street, North Woburn less than one mile away from large dumps, industrial companies, and multiple hazardous wastes ponds and sites. I

She remembers clearly the odor and liquid wastes pouring from the trucks traveling past her house and the wafting from those sites. She remembers, too, the disruptive rumble of the trucks starting early in the morning and lasting all day. As a child, it was hazardous simply to ride her bike in the neighborhood.

The wastes in this area created some of the worst contamination in our country—the infamous “Superfund Sites”. The problem persists to this day. Drinking water for both communities remains contaminated from decades of land abuse by many companies.

We have had more than our share of pollution and related troubles to deal with. We really don't deserve another blow. Please, deny the New England Transrail application and preserve our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheryl Wightman".

Cheryl Wightman

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Walter Wightman".

Walter Wightman